

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

I. Status of the Application

Claims 1-13 and 15 remain in this application. Claim 14 has been previously cancelled. Applicants amend claims 1, 6, 8 and 10. No new matter is introduced. Support for the amendments may be found, for example, at page 9, line 12 through page 10, line 7 of Applicants' specification.

II. Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 5-8, 10 and 15 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tarnanen (U.S. Patent No. 6,085,100) in view of Tarkiainen et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 20010041560). Claims 3, 4, 9 and 11-13 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tarnanen in view of Tarkiainen and Moran et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0086689). Applicants amend claims 1, 6, 8 and 10 to further clarify the nature of their invention, and respectfully traverse these rejections.

In amended independent claim 1, Applicants disclose:

1. A method for tracking messages delivered via a short message service (SMS) comprising the steps of:
receiving, at a gateway, a message destined for a mobile device;
assigning a unique identifier to the received message;
recording the received message and the unique identifier in a database accessible to the gateway;
forwarding the received message from the gateway to the mobile device,

wherein the forwarded message sent from the gateway to the mobile device includes an origination address, the origination address being derived from the unique identifier; and allowing either of a sender or a recipient of the message log in to the gateway to access and view the message recorded in the database.

Tarnanen discloses a system and method for routing a reply to a short message using an identifier assigned to the message upon receipt from a sender. The procedure for dealing with received messages is set forth in Fig. 5 of Tarnanen (see also Col. 7, lines 15-41). When a data message intended for a recipient is received (10), an identifier is created and assigned using the recipient's address and a time stamp (20), a temporary record is stored in a database, which record includes the sender's address, the recipient's address and the identifier (30), and the short message is transmitted for delivery to the recipient. The procedure for routing replies to the received message is set forth in Fig. 6 of Tarnanen (see also Col. 7, lines 42-55). The reply sent from the recipient of the short message is received (50), the identifier is examined (60), the source address of the sender is retrieved from the database using the identifier (70), and the reply is transmitted to the sender's source address (80). The only information stored in the temporary database is the network address of the sender of the short message, the address of the intended recipient and the assigned identifier (Tarnanen, Col. 3, lines 1-10; Col. 6, lines 20-37). At no time is the originally sent message or the reply message stored in the database for later viewing.

The Examiner acknowledges that Tarnanen fails to disclose Applicants' claimed steps of recording the received message and allowing a sender or a recipient of the message to view the message recorded in the database. The Examiner however asserts that these steps are disclosed or suggested by Tarkiainen.

Tarkiainen discloses a method for directing a text message to any of a primary terminal of a recipient or one or more secondary terminals of the recipient (see, e.g., abstract of Tarkiainen). The method relies on means for storing the text message in order to facilitate delivery at a future

time according to a calendar application (see, e.g., paragraph [0028] of Tarkiainen),, and for determining an active terminal of the recipient to which the recipient wishes the message to be directed (see, e.g., paragraphs [0034] to [0039] of Tarkiainen).

In sharp contrast to Applicants' invention as claimed in amended claim 1, Tarkiainen fails to disclose or otherwise suggest a means for the sender or the recipient of the text message to access and view the text message by logging in to a gateway storing the message in a database. Rather, according to the method of Tarkiainen, means are provided only for viewing by the recipient as delivered to at the recipient's mobile terminal. Applicants' claimed method provides the advantage of enabling each of the sender and the recipient with ability to access and view the text message as stored, regardless of the disposition the message as sent by the sender and received by the recipient.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent claim 1 is not made obvious by the combination of Tarkanen and Tarkiainen, and that claim 1 is therefore allowable. As amended independent claim 10 includes limitations that are equivalent to the limitations of claim 1 with regard to accessing and viewing the stored text message, Applicants reapply the above arguments to submit that amended independent claim 10 is also allowable. As each of dependent claims 2 - 9, 11 - 13 and 15 depend from one of allowable claims 1 and 10, Applicants submit that claims 2 - 9, 11 - 13 and 15 are also allowable for at least this reason.

In addition, Applicants submit that amended dependent claim 6 is allowable on alternative grounds. In amended dependent claim 6, Applicants disclose:

6. The method of claim 1, including the further steps of:

receiving, at the gateway, a reply to the message from the mobile device;

correlating the reply to the sent message by means of the unique identifier; and

recording the correlated reply in the database storing the sent message.

Applicants respectfully submit that neither Tarnanen nor Tarkiainen, either alone or in combination, teach or suggest recording a reply to the message in a database together with the sent message. Thus, for this additional reason, claim 6 is submitted to be patentable over Tarnanen.

CONCLUSION

Therefore, in view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that a Notice of Allowance as to all pending claims be issued in this case.

If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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